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The True and Cogent

REASONS

That induc'd the

Confederated *POLES*

To Diſapprove the pretended Election of

Staniſlaus Leſcinski,

AND

To preſerve their Common Liberty and the Publick Safety, by Means of a free Election, abſtract from all Private Views, in chuſing *AUGUSTUS* III. Prince Royal of *Poland*, and Elector of *Saxony*, for King of *Poland*, Great Duke of *Lithuania*, and Lord of the Provinces annex'd to the ſaid Crown.

LONDON:

Printed for J. BRINDLEY, Book-Binder to Her Majeſty, and His Royal Highneſs the Prince of *Wales*, at the *King's-Arms*, in *New Bond-ſtreet*.

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The True and Cogent

REASONS

That induc'd the

Confederated POLES

To Disprove the pretended Election of

Stanislaus Leſcinski,

AND

To preſerve their Common Liberty and the Publick
Safety, by Means of a Diet, aſſembled from all Private
Views, in chuſing a King, viz. Prince Royal of Poland,
and Elector of Saxony, [illegible] of Poland, Great Duke of
Lithuania, and Lord [illegible] Provinces annex'd to the ſaid
Crown.

LONDON:

Printed for J. Burnaby, Book-Seller to His Majeſty, and His Royal High-
neſs the Prince of Wales, at the King's-Arms, in Pall-Mall. 1734.

The True and Cogent

REASONS

That induc'd the

Confederated *Poles* to diſapprove the pretended Election of *Staniſlaus Leſcinski*, *&c.*

AFTER the lamentable and never-to-be ſufficiently deplored Death of the Moſt Serene and Potent *Auguſtus* II. King of *Poland*, our moſt indulgent Maſter (whoſe Soul now reſteth in God); no one, who is a Judge of what hath ſince been tranſacted, will deny, that all Piety, Candor, Love of publick Proſperity, and Watchfulneſs of Liberty, have been, as it were, expiring under the Mal-Adminiſtration of the Nation's Subdelegate.

Inſtead of which Virtue, a certain Arrogance, unheard-of ſince the Foundation of the Republick, has poſſeſſed the Adminiſtrator, during the Interregnum; and Covetouſneſs, the moſt fatal Bane of the Common-weal, which preferreth private Views to the general Good.

From

From these corrupt Springs flowed a Generation of Evils to the Republick; namely, The Oppression of her antient Liberty and Equality, by the aspiring House of *Potocki*, that grasps at more than ordinary Matters; and of their Adherents and Abettors, who direct the publick Councils according to their private Views; though, according to all Right and Reason, in a Republick constituted on Parity, Equals can exercise no Authority over each other.

Hence also proceeded the Subversion of the fundamental Laws of the Republick, which consist chiefly in observing and conserving the free Right of *Negation*; on which the publick Safety, and the Whole of our Liberties depend.

Lastly, From the same vitious Fountain arose that most violent Imposition of the obnoxious Person of *Stanislaus Lescinski* upon the Kingdom; against whom not only the Laws of our Country, and the most expres Constitutions of the Land, but also Treaties concluded with the neighbouring Powers, most manifestly declared.

'Twould be Time lost to enumerate the deceitful Artifices, which this destructive Faction to the Republick has practis'd, to elude and infringe the free Election of a King; and establish their own evil Designs.

A Proof of this Assertion is, the corrupt Confederacy set on Foot by the Primate and his Adherents at the very Beginning of the Interregnum, during the Diet of Convocation for fixing the Time of a new King's Election. Whereby, in Elusion of the Laws and Liberties of the Kingdom, by Means of *French* Gold, the Minds of the free *Poles* were partly bought, partly constrain'd by Violence and Threats, to swallow an Oath conceiv'd in the most deceitful Terms, to elect none but a Native for their King; when, at the same Time, the same treacherous Confederacy proscrib'd a Native.

But the Deceit and underhand Dealing which the Primate has us'd against the several Orders of the Republick appears still more palpably, in that he has not only constrain'd the secular States to accept, on Oath, the disapprov'd Points of the Confederacy; but even compell'd the Bishops, by the same factious Violence, to swear to the Authority and Prerogatives he claim'd by Law: By which Means, in case the Primate should, by *Separation*, or any other prejudicial Method, return a Candidate for King at the Time of Election, contrary

to

to the Laws, it ſhould not be permitted the Biſhops next in Degree, according to ancient Conſtitutions, (in order to prevent the Evils of the Republick, and preſerve their Country) to nominate a Candidate more to the Safety and Proſperity of the Kingdom, leſt ſuch Proceeding might be deem'd derogatory of the Primate's Right.

A further Argument of the Primate's Craft is, that tho' at the Time of the Confederacy he promis'd to return no Candidate without the unanimous Conſent of the Electors; yet this momentous Point, on which the Support of a free Election, and the publick Safety, depend, was not inſerted in the Copy of his Oath: Though, on the other hand, the Biſhops were to ſwear, that they would offer no Violence to the Rights of the Primate, nor name any Candidate in caſe of a *Diviſion*.

But there cannot be produc'd a more fatal and glaring Inſtance of Oppreſſion and Prejudice done to the common Liberties of a free People, than the Primate's Behavior towards the Nobles of the Kingdom, and the divers Diſtricts and Palatinates of *Poland*, and the great Dutchy of *Lithuania*, aſſembled at *Praage* beyond the *Viſtula*, to maintain the Freedom of Election againſt the Perverters of the Laws and ancient Liberties, and directly oppoſite in Sentiments to the violent, and, conſequently, illegitimate Election of *Warſaw*; in ſending a Deputation choſen out of the Senate and Equeſtrian Order, to invite them to an Unity of Mind and Counſels with him, acknowledging them, by that very Deputation for a conſiderable Body of the Republick that were Diſſentient: But far from waiting the Return of the illuſtrious Deputies, with the Reſolution of their Fellow-Members, the ſaid Primate, in open Contempt of his Peers, which retorts upon himſelf, proceeded to the Nomination of his unlawful Candidate, extinguiſhing thereby all Freedom of Election; and ordering the Cannons to give Signal of his unprecedented Choice, he, as it were, excited the injur'd and oppreſs'd Part of the Republick to revenge the Loſs of their moſt precious Privileges.

By ſuch Proceedings hath the partial Primate and his Adherents open'd a Way for *Staniſlaus Leſzinski* to the Throne: And in order to fix him on a ſurer Foundation, they have thought fit to abuſe the moſt ſacred Band that is impreſs'd on the Minds of Men by Religion, *viz. an Oath*. But the Invalidity of it is manifeſt from hence, that they induc'd many who appear'd at the Dyet of Convocation, to take the Oath forcibly, treacherouſly, and raſhly. *Forcibly*,

cibly, becauſe they conſtrain'd Denizens of both Orders to ſwear, by threatening them with Death, Confiſcation of Goods, and Deprivation of Honours and Employs. *Treacherouſly*, becauſe the Copy of the Oath referr'd to the Articles of Confederacy, the Tenor of which was not generally approv'd by the States of the Kingdom. *Raſhly*, becauſe Men were drawn in to take the Name of God in vain, and conſtrain'd to ſwear in Breach of the Laws, and Detriment to the Republick, and to the Prejudice of a more proper Candidate, who might have been elected freely, without any Violence or Compulſion, and Tranquillity thereby maintain'd at Home, and Peace Abroad: The Permiſſion alſo of electing a King to their Good-will and Liking was taken from the People, in which the Strength and Baſis of *our Common Liberty* truly and ſolely conſiſts.

All generous Minds, whom the Light of Reaſon and Knowledge of publick Affairs enabled to perceive the Myſteries of this fraudulent Action, ſo detrimental to Liberty, united in Defence of their Common Liberties; and in order to guard againſt the Torrent of this deſtructive Faction, they ſet wholeſome and neceſſary Salvo's in their Subſcriptions to the ſaid Inſtrument of Confederacy; remitting the Approbation of this extorted and fraudulent Oath to the general Convention of the Palatinates and Diſtricts in the Field of Election.

Theſe Proceedings were but ſmall Obſtacles to contemptuous Men, who ſet themſelves above all Law. The Time appointed for the Election approach'd: No Regard was had by the corrupt and prevaricating Primate to the Proteſts that had been enter'd: No Reſpect had for the Inſtructions given the Nuncio's of ſeveral Diſtricts and Palatinates, in manifeſt Contradiction to the Election of *Staniſlaus*.

The ſtrongeſt Reaſons were of no Effect: Their precipitate Minds were not in the leaſt mov'd by the Manifeſto's of the Neighbouring Powers, declaring that they would, by Force of Arms, prevent the Throne of *Poland* from being fill'd by a Dependant of *France*, and a Confederate of the *Swedes* and *Turks*, one who had heretofore enter'd into a Treaty deſtructive of the Republick and her Allies with the ſaid Powers.

No Credit was given to repeated Aſſertions, that the *Muſcovite* Troops had actually enter'd the *Poliſh* Territories, and made long

Marches

Marches to fulfil their Ancient Engagements with the Republick, againſt the Attempts of the ſaid *Staniſlaus Leſcinski*.

And, what is hardly credible, the Obſtinacy of the Faction that held the Adminiſtration, during the Interregnum, proceeded ſo far to diſturb the Repoſe of *Chriſtendom*, as to put a falſe Conſtruction on her Imperial *Muſcovite* Majeſty's Letters to the Republick, tho' couch'd in the moſt Amicable Terms; and by their tumultous Noiſe obſtructed the Aſſembly from underſtanding their true Purport.

In ſhort, the numerous Proteſts enter'd by Senators, and thoſe of the Equeſtrian Order, nay, by whole Palatinates and Diſtricts, and their Manifeſto's loudly complaining of the Subverſion of Laws, Infringement of Liberty in Election, Breach of Treaties with the Neighbouring Powers, and Violation of the Internal and External Peace of the Kingdom, were entirely neglected; as alſo their Appeals to the Decree of a freer and ſafer Meeting from the firſt violent, deceitful, and moſt pernicious Act of Election.

For the over-bearing and lawleſs Part of the Republick violated, in the higheſt Degrees, the Laws of the Land, by inverting whatever Equity, Cuſtom, and Liberty had for a long Series of Years eſtabliſh'd in a free and Elective Kingdom; and by refuſing Admittance in the Field of Election to Foreign Ambaſſadors, who had a Right to ſet forth the Inclinations and Deſires of their Principals.

A like Error was committed in not admitting the Propoſitions of the Candidates for the Crown. A moſt fraudulent Attempt, calculated to prevent the People's Electors from being inform'd of the Advantages and Diſadvantages that might accrue from thence in the Choice of a King, and conſequently from taking the neceſſary Meaſures in their Preference of a Candidate.

Laſtly, They violated the moſt precious Points of Liberty, and even their own Articles of Confederacy, whilſt, arrogating to themſelves an abſolute Power, exceeding the juſt Bounds of Equality, they proceeded on the 12th of *September* to the Nomination of their Candidate, at a Time when the Republick was moſt manifeſtly divided: Then were brought to light the dangerous Projects they had hitherto conceal'd in Favour of the *French* Faction, by impoſing on the Free *Poles*, in manifeſt Contempt of the Diſſenting

Body

Body of the Republick, *Staniſlaus Leſcinski* for their Ruler; a Native undoubtedly, but for Reaſons hereafter mentioned, proſcrib'd, and declar'd an Enemy to his Country by the moſt expreſs Conſtitutions of the Kingdom; and by Virtue of Treaties ſubſiſting between the Republick and her Neighbours, never to be admitted to the Reins of Government, but by a Rupture with the ſaid Powers.

The foregoing Facts are evident, as well from the Conſtitutions of *Lublin*, in the Year 1703. as from the Confederacy of *Sendomir*, in 1704. which were fully confirm'd by the General Congreſs, or Great Council of *Warſaw* in 1710. wherein his preſent Eminence the Primate, at that Time Biſhop of *Culm*, in full Aſſembly of the States, pronounc'd the ſaid *Staniſlaus Leſcinski* for ever incapable of wearing the Crown of *Poland*, which *Sweden* would have ſet on his Head by Force of Arms; and this he bound with a Solemn Oath.

Further, The Decree of the Year 1717. and the Act of *Warſaw*, for *Granting an Amneſty to Staniſlaus Leſcinski*, and his Adherents reſiding out of the *Poliſh* Territories with him, expreſly provides, That unleſs thoſe Traiterous Citizens return'd to their Country within the Space of three Months, they ſhould be depriv'd of their Privileges in the Republick; and in Caſe of Non-compliance, the Penalties appointed by the ſaid Act are to remain in full Force. All which was afterwards approv'd by the Diet of *Grodno*, in the Year 1718.

The following, therefore, is ſubmitted to the impartial Judgment of Mankind, and the juſt Indignation of the Republick: Whilſt the Primate at the late Diet of Election, after the Articles of his Confederacy were ſworn, baniſh'd all diſqualify'd Members from the Field of Election, himſelf imprudently, inconſiderately, againſt the Laws of ancient and latter Days, and even of his own Confederacy, (at the late pretended Election of *Warſaw*) had the Aſſurance to obtrude the ſaid *Staniſlaus Leſcinski* on the Kingdom of *Poland*; a Perſon lying under the ſeverelt Laſh of the Law, proſcrib'd and condemn'd by the Republick, in repeated Aſſemblies, as an Aſſociate and Confederate with his Country's Enemies, and the Uſurper of another's Throne.

And to compleat the Subverſion of the Laws and Cuſtoms of the Kingdom, the ſaid *Staniſlaus Leſcinski* was conducted from *France*

France to *Warſaw* at the Juncture of the Election, in order to encourage the Faction by his Preſence, and promote his Nomination as far as poſſible; in Contempt of the National Laws, which expreſly forbid the Candidates for the Kingdom to tarry near the Field of Election.

Theſe Attempts of the Imperious Primate, manifeſtly tended to overturn the Liberty, Dignity, Laws, and Welfare of the Republick, by throwing it into the moſt deteſtable Convulſions; and rous'd the Commonwealth to take Meaſures for reſtoring publick Tranquility, and recovering their ancient Rights, eſpecially that which is the Baſis of all Liberty, *viz.* Freedom in Election, the Infringement of which is by the Primate's Party notorious, from the many Thouſands that oppos'd it.

The firſt Step taken from the oppreſſed Part of the Republick, was to publiſh a ſeaſonable Manifeſto: But as the Place commonly pitch'd upon for the Field of Election, was cover'd with the Blood of Slaughter'd Citizens, and become the Reproach and Bane of Liberty, they transferr'd their Counſels beyond the *Viſtula*, to a Place void of Tumults and Perſecution, in order to gain Opportunity for maturer Deliberation, and avoid bringing to view again the bloody Scene of *Pharſalia*. There, by God's Aſſiſtance, the Hoſtilities of the adverſe Party ceas'd, which had purſed them with Slaughter to the Borders of *Litbuania*. At length, on the 5th of *October*, ſix Weeks after the Space appointed by Law for the Election, at a Seaſon prolong'd by Interruptions, and over-haſty Steps of the Primate's Faction, they re-aſſum'd their Deliberations, and proceeded to a Free Election; that they might retrieve their loſt Liberties, and correct the Errors of their Brethren, who appropriated to themſelves the Privilege of impoſing a King on the Nation, contrary to the Statutes of the Kingdom, and the Free Will of their Peers.

A Conteſt enſued, occaſion'd by pulling down the Bridge of Communication, over the *Viſtula*, the 16th Day of *September*, which both Cuſtom and Law directed to be kept in Repair for the Space of ſix Weeks, the full Term allow'd for the Diet of Election; therefore as there was no Opportunity, on account of the adverſe Party's continued Hoſtilities, to come at the uſual Place of Election near *Warſaw*, it was deem'd that the Preſervation of Liberty and Law conſiſted not ſo much in the Spot of Ground, as in the Uniformity of Counſels and Action, after the

Example of their Anceſtors: Accordingly, by Aſſiſtance of the Divine Inſpiration, in the Field of Election at *Kaminieck*, the Confederate Patriots happily nam'd the Moſt Serene *Fredric Auguſtus*, Prince Royal of *Poland*, and Elector of *Saxony*, for King of *Poland*, Great Duke of *Lithuania*, and Lord of the annexed Provinces, by the Name of *Auguſtus* III. This Election was not made in Contempt of the *Negative* Rights, in Imitation of the fatal Proceedings at *Warſaw*; but with Univerſal Applauſe of the ſeveral Palatinates and Diſtricts, to whom the Queſtion was thrice propos'd.

The ſound Body of the Republick having thus freely conſtituted the ſaid pious, juſt, and magnanimous Prince for Protector and Avenger of their Laws and Privileges, in order to their further Security, they bound themſelves in the moſt Solemn Ties, to ſupport his Election at the Expence of their Lives and Fortunes.

The Motives that gain'd this Prince the People's Affections, were, His conſtant Propenſity to the True Roman Catholick Faith; His Heroick Virtues; the Splendor of his Royal and Illuſtrious Extraction, deducible from the Race of *Jagellan*, which Affinity inſpires him with an unfeigned Love for the Welfare and Glory of *Poland*, and conſequently to be eſteem'd by all Impartial Patriots for a true Piaſtic. The Art of ruling a Free People in the mildeſt Manner, which he was train'd up in by his Father, of Pious Memory, pleaded ſtrongly in his Favour; as alſo his Inclination to avoid whatever might prejudice the Liberties of *Poland*, infringe her Laws, or diſturb the Quiet of his Subjects. The Propoſals calculated for the Advantage, Glory, and Security of the Republick, made by his Plenipotentiaries, in the Field of Election, were further Recommendations. The good Underſtanding between the Neighbouring Princes and his Majeſty, contributed alſo to determine the People's Choice in his Favour, as it promiſed *Poland* good Neighbourhood and Friendſhip with the ſaid Powers. Laſtly, another Argument in his Favour was, The Aſſiſtance in Caſes of Neceſſity, which the Republick may always depend on from this puiſſant Prince; ſo that in the preſent State of Confuſion our King-Elect has it only in his Power to retrieve the Laws and Liberty of the Republick, by reſtoring the internal and external Peace of the Kingdom.

These

Theſe are the true Reaſons that alienated the Minds of the People from the Uſurpation of *Staniſlaus Leſcinski*, and induc'd them to Elect the moſt Serene and Potent *Frederic Auguſtus*, Prince Royal of *Poland*, and Elector of *Saxony*.

And as the States of the Republick have, by their late unanimous Suffrages, at the Field of Election near *Kaminieck*, put in Nomination and Elected the ſaid Prince, King of *Poland*, Great Duke of *Lithuania*, and Lord of the annexed Provinces, by the Name of *Auguſtus* III.; ſo the ſaid Confederated States do now bind themſelves by the moſt Solemn Vow to defend his moſt Serene Majeſty, and their ancient Liberties, at the Expence of their Lives and Fortunes; and do hereby make known their Reſolutions to the Chriſtian World.

FINIS.

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